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(54) **MACROBLOCK LEVEL ADAPTIVE FRAME/FIELD CODING FOR DIGITAL VIDEO CONTENT**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system of encoding and decoding digital video content. The digital video content comprises a stream of pictures which can each be intra, predicted, or bi-predicted pictures. Each of the pictures comprises macroblocks that can be further divided into smaller blocks. The method entails encoding and decoding each of the smaller blocks in each picture in said stream of pictures in either frame mode or in field mode.

19 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets